

falls to below 40% of its maximum height within less than a quarter of a full alternating cycle thereby causing dielectric breakdown and the formation of a ceramic coating on said interior surface, and removing said incipient spinning rotor cup from said electrolytic bath.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 1 wherein said passivating agent is ~~[a colloidal suspension of sodium silicate in the form  $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot x\text{SiO}_2$  ( $x \geq 2.55$  by weight)]~~ at a concentration of 2.0-9.5 grams per liter of said bath, said electrolytic agent is an alkali metal hydroxide, and said spinning rotor cup has an aluminum surface.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Currently Amended) Method of forming a hard ceramic surface on ~~[a selected]~~ at least a portion of the ~~[internal annular]~~ surface of a collection groove of a spinning rotor cup comprising (a) placing said spinning rotor cup in an electrolyte bath containing ingredients capable of forming a hard ceramic surface by electrolysis (b) connecting said spinning rotor cup to a source of electric current (c) placing an electrode inside said spinning rotor cup, said electrode being shaped and placed to provide a peripheral terminus substantially peripherally equidistant from said ~~[selected]~~ portion of ~~[internal annular surface]~~ said collection groove surface, and (d) passing a current through said electrode, said bath, and said rotor sufficient to form a hard ceramic coating on [the] said portion of said surface of said ~~[selected internal annular]~~ collection groove [surface].

Please cancel claim 9.

Please cancel claims 10 and 14 and replace them with new claims 21 and 22:

21. (New) Method of forming a hard ceramic surface on a selected portion of the internal annular surface of a spinning rotor cup comprising (a) placing said spinning rotor cup in an electrolyte bath containing ingredients capable of forming a hard ceramic surface by electrolysis (b) connecting said spinning rotor cup to a source of electric current (c) placing an electrode inside said spinning rotor cup, said electrode *comprising a body and a downwardly oriented peripheral flange* and being shaped and placed to provide a peripheral terminus substantially peripherally equidistant